

Free H1N1 swine flu vaccines still available in Lee County

It's here! Flu season that is and getting a flu shot is the best way to protect yourself and those around you from getting sick.

The H1N1 swine flu vaccine is still available in Lee County and this week will be provided free for residents in Fort Myers Beach.

Those individuals that are at higher risk for flu complications should make a priority of getting vaccinated. Pregnant women, children and young adults age 6 months through 24 years, and people who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza such as heart disease, asthma or diabetes.

"During National Influenza Week it's important to remind residents that H1N1 and seasonal flu are still around and the very best way to protect yourself and your loved ones is to get vaccinated," said Judith A. Hartner, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A., Director of the Lee County Health Department in a news release.

During National Influenza Week (Jan. 10-16) is a great time to take advantage of the upcoming clinics in Fort Myers Beach. Also, parents that still need to get that second H1N1 dose for their children 9 years and younger can attend.

Only H1N1 vaccinations will be provided by the Fort Myers Beach Fire Department:

Vaccine available for ages 36 months and older:

Monday: Chapel By The Sea from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 100 Chapel St. or near the 2300 block of Estero Boulevard, Fort Myers Beach

Tuesday: Chapel By The Sea from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Seasonal and H1N1 vaccinations will be provided by the Lee County Health Department:

Vaccine available for all ages:

Weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., 83 Pondella Rd. North, Fort Myers

Things to know before you come:

No need to come early, wait times are shorter for those that come a bit later

No medical documentation is required

No residency documentation is required

For more information on influenza activity there are a number of resources available such as the Florida Department of Health toll-free number which provides public health information and updates on H1N1 swine flu. The information line is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Information is available in English, Spanish and Creole. The Florida Flu Information Line is 877-352-3581.